

passes, any proposal to create a capital budget would be declared unconstitutional. A capital budget would allow us to differentiate between investments and operating costs like every single State in the country.

If we were to ask any Governor today, do you have a capital budget, the answer is "yes." If we would ask any Governor today, if you had to work under the same accounting devices that we do at the Federal level, a unified budget, would you have a balanced budget, chances are in every single case the answer would be, "no, we would have a deficit." We would have a large deficit, billions of dollars of deficit. Why? Because for many, many years, in some cases from the very beginning of a State's history, they have known the importance of differentiating between capital investments and operating costs, knowing that you do not treat an investment long term like you do somebody's lunch.

I think it is very important for this country to differentiate in that regard at some point in the future as well. And for us at this date, regardless of how one feels about a capital budget, to say that from here on out we are going to make it unconstitutional for this country to even consider budgeting the way we do in business, the way we do in families, the way we do in States, in my view is extraordinarily dangerous to this country's economic health and well-being.

How many times have we heard on this Senate floor the following phrase: this Government ought to budget its expenditures the way a family does. We ought to treat our budget the way every single family treats its budget.

Mr. President, there are not many families I know of that pay off their mortgage in 1 year. How many families today say that they have a balanced budget, taking into account the mortgage that they themselves must pay? Few families today would have the ability to pay off a mortgage in 1 year. But we are asking the Federal Government to pay off every one of its mortgages in each year, to treat a mortgage the same way we treat a bill for the lights which run this building.

There is a big difference, and I think the time has come for this country to have a capital budget. Regardless, as I say, the real question is, should we have an accounting system like families, like businesses, like States? I hope the answer is "yes," someday, and I hope we will have the foresight, regardless of what we may think of a budgeting system of that kind, to at least say that the Senate has the right to consider a capital budget at some point in the future. To make it expressly unconstitutional, in my view, is extraordinary.

I ask all of my colleagues to think very carefully about the amendment we write. I have also heard so often Senators come to the floor and say this bill is not perfect; this amendment is not the best we can do, but let us ac-

cept the fact that we can improve on it at some point in the future.

I hope no one in this entire debate will ever come to the floor and say this bill is not perfect, this amendment to the U.S. Constitution may not be perfect, because we do not have the luxury of coming back and amending it. We do not have the luxury of altering it once it becomes part of the U.S. Constitution. We tried that once before with prohibition, and it took another constitutional amendment to undo the damage we did the first time.

So let us not in any way, shape or form be content to satisfy our need to pass an amendment and then say we are willing to accept something that is imperfect. We have imperfections in this amendment that have to be dealt with. There is absolutely no reason to pay for deficit spending with Social Security trust funds. There is no reason to constitutionally preclude us from dealing directly with the real need to pass a capital budgeting system at some point in the future.

So let us be honest. Let us recognize that this amendment is not perfect; it needs to be changed; it needs to be amended in a constructive way; it needs to take into account our future; it needs to recognize that we have to be truthful with the American people; and it needs at long last to be dealt with in a bipartisan way, with Republicans and Democrats working together to fashion an amendment that makes sense not only for us but for all posterity.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGEL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE—STORIES FROM THE WINTER OF 1996-97

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, one of the great fears of our time has been that America is slowly losing its sense of community and, with it, the idea that each of us has a responsibility toward one another. Today, I am proud to say that all around America our spirit of community remains strong. As you know, the Great Plains have been paralyzed this winter by terrible blizzards, high winds, and subzero temperatures. But thanks to the efforts of individuals all over the country, I am happy to report this afternoon that we are pulling through.

I am proud to say that during the worst of the bitter cold and howling winds, South Dakotans have been at their best. They have bundled up, put on their boots and trudged outside to help their friends and neighbors—even perfect strangers—make it safely through dangerous storms.

Residents of the northern Great Plains are accustomed to harsh winters. But all would agree, this winter has been especially brutal. Some say it is the worst we have seen this century. I remind you that most of this century has already passed.

In the blizzards that descended upon us in January, wind chill temperatures dropped to nearly 90 degrees below zero. Blowing snow covered roads with drifts that were as high as 30 feet and 60 feet long. Visibility dropped to less than a few feet as 60-mile-an-hour winds whipped snow into swirling white walls, hiding everyone and everything before it.

With roads closed, thousands of South Dakotans were left with only the food in their cupboards and a dwindling supply of propane to heat their homes. Even more seriously, travelers were left stranded on the highways, and many of our elderly residents and those in need of medical attention were cut off from any assistance.

I wish I could say that we survived these dangers unharmed, but I cannot. Five people have died directly as a result of these conditions. Others have died in the aftermath of the repeated ice storms and blizzards. While today we honor the heroes of these difficult times, we must also remember the victims. To those who lost loved ones this winter, I want to say that our thoughts and our prayers are with you.

Our hearts also go out to those whose farms and homes and businesses have been so hard hit by the heavy snow and cold. No one can know for sure how many livestock have died, but estimates range at least as high as 40,000. I urge all of those who have suffered loss not to go through this tragedy alone. There is no shame in asking for help.

Despite our losses, the heavy toll of this winter could be much worse. Many might have died, but did not. Many might have gone without heat and food and medicine, but were brought needed supplies just in time. This is due not to luck but to the simple fact that South Dakotans from every walk of life have pitched in to ensure that we get through this winter as safely as we can and together.

No one can list the thousands of people who put themselves at risk to help the victims of these storms, and no one can tell all of their stories. Indeed, the few I want to relate today only scratch the surface of those that might be told.

Time and again across South Dakota, neighbor has checked on neighbor, and families have taken in stranded travelers in need of assistance. Emergency snowmobile crews have teamed up with local police departments to ensure that doctors and nurses have made it to work over snow-clogged roads.

In fact, just last night my parents told me of a cousin of mine who left his home at 3 o'clock in the morning, on a Saturday morning, to drive 300 miles to buy a new snow blower he was going to use in the community. He brought it

back that morning, and his wife told my parents that it was the single biggest event that has occurred in that area in decades.

They have delivered medicine to the homebound and brought spare parts to farmers in need of aid. During the darkest, coldest parts of the blizzard that have torn through our State, they have risked their lives to rescue stranded motorists and brought lifesaving medical attention to those in need.

One of those teams was the Drift Busters. The Drift Busters is a snowmobile club in Aberdeen, my hometown, which went into action shortly after the onset of our most recent blizzard. Their quick action and bravery were instrumental in saving the residents of Aberdeen from serious harm.

One of the most threatening situations occurred when 2-year-old Stetson Heirigs accidentally ingested poison and needed emergency care in a hospital. After a quick conference call with Stetson's family and the poison control center, club president Duane Sutton drove his snowmobile over 7 miles through darkness, blowing snow, and bitter cold to reach the family's home near Richmond Lake. Then, with the aid of a comember, Dennis Beckler, he ensured that the boy reached the hospital safely and received the treatment he needed just in time. Today Stetson is safe and healthy.

Extraordinary bravery has been a fact of life throughout the course of this winter. We have all heard the remarkable story of Karen Nelson, a nursing home aide from Webster who was stranded for over 40 hours in her pickup after becoming disoriented on the roads she has driven her entire life. With her engine running for heat and her cellular phone her only link to the world, Karen waited through the hours of darkness, crying and praying, as a team from around the State assembled to find her.

From Rapid City came aircraft equipped with special heat-seeking sensors to scour the drifts from the sky. From Watertown came experts in communications to triangulate the signal from Karen's phone and narrow down her location. Meanwhile, Day County rescue teams in snowmobiles and four-wheel-drive vehicles combed the roads for any sign of her car. At last she was found when she told the rescue team over her phone that she heard the sound of engines overhead. I cannot adequately express how proud we are of all the outstanding people that made Karen's rescue possible, and of Karen for her bravery in enduring those long, cold hours before the rescuers arrived.

Many of the dangerous circumstances of this winter have been found on South Dakota's Indian reservations. Blasted by blizzard after blizzard and woefully short of money and equipment, tribal workers have acted courageously throughout this difficult season.

Of particular note are the Rescue Rangers of the Cheyenne River Res-

ervation, who during the height of the January blizzards led convoys of snowplows, ambulances, and four-wheel-drive vehicles to ensure that medical attention was received where it was needed. In dangerous conditions, the Rescue Rangers plowed through 30-foot drifts packed harder than adobe by 80-mile-an-hour winds. Creating an even greater challenge were the vast distances that had to be traveled to reach those in need.

At one point this month, seven Rescue Rangers nearly froze after becoming stranded on an 85-mile trip to provide medical attention to a tribal elder.

A truly heart-wrenching story was related to me by Gregg Bourland, chairman of the Cheyenne River Reservation, who told me of two families stranded in a snow-blocked pass on highway 63. After 14 hours, frostbitten and certain that rescue would come too late, the parents placed tags with vital information on each of their children so they might be identified after they had died. Thankfully, the Rescue Rangers arrived in time.

Luckily, not all of the stories of this winter are as terrible as that. For instance, I was touched to learn of the Bredvik family, who opened their home to stranded motorists along I-29 near the North Dakota border. While Lynn Bredvik picked up the travelers one by one in his snowmobile and brought them home, his mother Dorothy opened up her kitchen and provided each with a hearty breakfast of eggs, sausage, bread, and, in South Dakota, lefse. When asked why she would open her home to over a dozen strangers, Dorothy said it was "old hat" to her. It is what families do during blizzards.

I think Dorothy has summed it up for all of us. Her actions might seem extraordinary to someone else, but for people like her they are old hat. We like to think of our State as the biggest small town in America, where everyone is a member of the same community. We understand you cannot make it through this world alone and that we have a responsibility to help each other whenever or wherever we can.

We will need to continue to do that because this winter is not over. Weather reports from South Dakota continue to tell us of minus-50 degree windchills. We have received nearly 10 inches of new snow in the past couple of days, and there are over 2 more months of snow to come. We need to make sure that the farmers and ranchers devastated by their livestock losses can get the help they need and that low-income families can keep their homes heated during this freezing weather.

We must prepare ourselves for the inevitable floods of spring. When the great drifts that currently cover my State begin to melt, they will release their force on areas that have been declared Federal flood disasters in the last 4 of 5 years. Simply put, come spring there will be nowhere left for

the water to go. We need to ensure that prompt Federal assistance is made available when this flooding occurs. These are difficult challenges to be sure, but together I am absolutely convinced that we will overcome them. We always do.

Finally, I want to thank everyone whose help has been so vital to South Dakota. This has been more than an individual or a State effort. America has pulled together. Our neighbors to the south, north, west and to the east have all helped and sent something—snowblowers, snowplows, teams of rescue workers. For hours upon end, workers and snowplows donated from States as far away as Texas have labored alongside our National Guard to keep the roads clear.

During the worst of the storms, when the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation was cut off from the outside world, 25,000 pounds of food were donated by Feed the Children, based in Oklahoma City, and delivered to Pine Ridge by the 28th Transportation Squadron of Ellsworth Air Force Base. Together they worked to ensure that no one would go without food. Indeed, help has poured into South Dakota from around the country. Even as we speak, Federal Emergency Management Agency teams are fanning out over South Dakota to assess the damage and bring help where it is needed. Thanks to the rapid response of President Clinton, public and private agencies too numerous to mention, and the support of our friends and neighbors all over, I am proud to announce to my colleagues this afternoon that we are pulling through.

So thank you, South Dakota, and thank you America. We are proud of you. All of your stories will never be known but you can be sure that they are alive in the hearts of those of us whom you have helped when we needed it the most.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

STOKES COURTHOUSE

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I introduced yesterday legislation to honor the late Carl Stokes.

Carl Stokes was born on the east side of Cleveland in 1927. He lost his father at the age of 2. When he was young, his family was so poor that Carl, his mother, and his brother LOUIS—now our distinguished colleague in the House of Representatives—had to sleep in the same bed.

In 1962, Carl Stokes was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives—the first African-American to serve as a Democrat in our State legislature.